

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 COME-00 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01

INT-08 GSA-01 OEP-01 AID-20 /159 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: EMIN, EIND, ETRD, US, AS

SUBJECT: GSA STOCKPILE DISPOSALS - TIN

REF: STATE 77908 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING STOCKPILE DISPOSAL CONSULTATION WITH AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF FRAWLEY, REPORTED REFTTEL, ON APRIL 19 FRAWLEY INFORMED DEPT BY LETTER THAT GOA CONSIDERING OVER-ALL USG PROPOSALS, BUT HAD INSTRUCTED EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY CONVEY GOA' S POSITION ON TIN DISPOSALS, AS FOLLOWS (SUMMARY OF EMBASSY LETTER):

2. GOA VIEWS USG PROPOSAL TO RESUME TIN DISPOSALS AT THIS TIME " WITH DEEP CONCERN," GIVEN " FINELY BALANCED" INTERNATIONAL TIN MARKET AND RECENT INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL (ITC) DECISION TO CONTINUE EXPORT CONTROLS AT MORE RESTRICTIVE LEVEL. LATTER ACTION TAKEN IN SITUATION WHERE ITC
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BUFFER STOCK MANAGER ALREADY HOLDING CONSIDERABLE TIN AND PRICE STILL IN LOWER SECTOR OF PRICE RANGE UNDER INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT (ITA). ANY STOCKPILE TIN RELEASES UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES COULD WELL MEAN THAT PRODUCER COUNTRIES WILL BE OBLIGED TO BEAR AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN OF MORE RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTS.

3. LETTER CONTINUES: ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENT WOULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR CONTINUING STABILITY OF AUSTRALIAN

TIN MINING INDUSTRY. IN PARTICULAR, FUTURE VIABILITY OF SOME IMPORTANT TIN MINING COMMUNITIES IN REMOTE PARTS OF AUSTRALIA WOULD BE OPEN TO QUESTION IN EVENT OF ANY FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN SCALE OF THEIR OPERATIONS. APART FROM THIS PROBLEM FOR AUSTRALIA, GOA ALSO VERY CONSCIOUS OF ADVERSE EFFECTS THAT SUCH STOCKPILE RELEASES WOULD HAVE ON OTHER PRODUCER MEMBERS OF ITA, ALL OF WHICH ARE LDCS AND HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON TIN AS SOURCE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, GOA FEELS STRONGLY THAT USG SHOULD REFRAIN FROM COMMENCING TIN SALES WHILE EXPORT CONTROLS STILL IN EFFECT.

4. LETTER CONCLUDES: IF, ON OTHER HAND, USG DECIDES IT NECESSARY TO PROCEED WITH TIN DISPOSALS AT THIS TIME, GOA ASSUMES THAT RELEASES WILL BE MADE IN ORDERLY MANNER AND CONTAIN SAFEGUARDS TO AVOID UNDUE DISRUPTION OF WORLD TIN MARKET. IN THIS CONNECTION, GOA RECALLS PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENTS, COVERING TIN AND OTHER METALS, INCORPORATING MECHANISMS TO FACILITATE ORDERLY DISPOSALS. GOA SUPPORTS ITC REPRESENTATIONS TO USG ON TIN DISPOSALS, AND HOPES THAT USG WILL BE ABLE TO DEVISE MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT THAT WILL ACCOMMODATE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF TIN PRODUCING NATIONS. END OF SUMMARY.

5. DEPARTMENT POUCHING COPIES OF LETTER TO EMBASSIES CANBERRA AND LONDON. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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